

Appln. No. 10/719,245
Amendment dated November 8, 2006
Reply to Office Action mailed August 8, 2006

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This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims (deleted text being struck through and added text being underlined):

1. (Currently Amended) A sliding tarp assembly comprising:
a sheet of material having a lower face for orienting downwardly toward a support surface and an upper face for resting an item thereon; and
a plurality of sliding members coupled to and ~~extending protruding~~
from ~~[[[a]]]~~ the lower face of said sheet of material for forming, said
sliding members of said plurality of sliding members being spaced from
each other to form a grid of sliding members whereby said sheet of material
~~is adapted for facilitating sliding an item placed on said sheet of material~~
~~on a support surface when said sliding members are positioned to contact~~
~~the support surface;~~
wherein each of said sliding members has a convex outer surface for
facilitating sliding of said sliding members on the support surface.

2. (Original) The sliding tarp assembly of claim 1 wherein said plurality of sliding members includes a first set of sliding members and a second set of sliding members, each sliding member of said first set of sliding members being larger than each sliding member of said second set of sliding members.

3. (Original) The sliding tarp assembly of claim 2 wherein said first set of sliding members are positioned in a central portion of said face of said sheet of material.

4. (Currently Amended) The sliding tarp assembly of claim 2 wherein said second set of sliding members are positioned on outer portions of said lower face of said sheet of material such that the sliding members of said second set surround the sliding members of said first set.

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5. (Original) The sliding tarp assembly of claim 1, further comprising:

a plurality of straps coupled to said sheet of material for facilitating securing of said sheet of material around an item positioned on said sheet of material.

6. (Original) The sliding tarp assembly of claim 5 wherein each of said plurality of straps is coupled to a perimeter edge of said sheet of material.

7. (Original) The sliding tarp assembly of claim 1, further comprising:

said sheet of material having a plurality of cutout portions, said cutout portions being positioned proximate to a perimeter edge of said sheet of material for forming a plurality of handles to facilitate manipulation of said sheet of material.

8. (Previously Presented) The sliding tarp assembly of claim 1, further comprising:

said sheet of material comprising a plurality of handles for being gripped by the user facilitating manipulation of said sheet of material.

9. (Original) The sliding tarp assembly of claim 8 wherein said handles are integrally formed in said sheet of material by a plurality of cutouts in said sheet of material.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Original) The sliding tarp assembly of claim 1 wherein each of said sliding members has a coating for reducing friction between said sliding members and the support surface.

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12. (Original) The sliding tarp assembly of claim 11 wherein said coating is tetrafluoroethylene.

13. (Withdrawn) The sliding tarp assembly of claim 1 wherein said sheet of material has a generally rectangular main portion and an extension portion for facilitating grasping of said sheet of material while said main portion remains positioned adjacent the support surface.

14. (Withdrawn) The sliding tarp assembly of claim 13 wherein said extension portion has a rounded outer edge to permit said main portion to be pulled at a distance from said main portion to inhibit said main portion impacting feet of the user.

15. (Withdrawn) The sliding tarp assembly of claim 14, further comprising:

said extension portion comprising at least one handle for being gripped by the user to facilitate sliding of said extension portion.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Withdrawn) The sliding tarp assembly of claim 13, further comprising:

a pair of handles integrally formed in said extension portion, said handles being symmetrically aligned on opposite sides of a center of said outer edge of said extension portion.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (New) The sliding tarp assembly of claim 1 wherein the sheet of material is bendable.

20. (New) The sliding tarp assembly of claim 1 wherein the sheet of material has a front edge and a rear edge, the sheet of material having a pair of side edges extending between the front and rear edges, and

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wherein a row of a plurality of the spaced sliding members is positioned between the front and rear edges and a row of a plurality of the spaced sliding members is positioned between the side edges.

21. (New) The sliding tarp assembly of claim 1 wherein each of the sliding members has a perimeter formed of approximately four segments, each of the segments of the perimeter being arcuate.

22. (New) The sliding tarp assembly of claim 1 wherein each of the sliding members has four corner junctures where adjacent ones of the arcuate segments meet.

23. (New) The sliding tarp assembly of claim 1 wherein said plurality of sliding members includes a first set of sliding members and a second set of sliding members, each sliding member of said first set of sliding members being larger than each sliding member of said second set of sliding members;

wherein said first set of sliding members are positioned in a central portion of said face of said sheet of material;

wherein said second set of sliding members are positioned on outer portions of said lower face of said sheet of material such that the sliding members of said second set surround the sliding members of said first set;

a plurality of straps coupled to said sheet of material for facilitating securing of said sheet of material around an item positioned on said sheet of material;

wherein each of said plurality of straps is coupled to a perimeter edge of said sheet of material;

wherein said sheet of material has a plurality of cutout portions, said cutout portions being positioned proximate to a perimeter edge of said sheet of material for forming a plurality of handles to facilitate manipulation of said sheet of material;

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said sheet of material comprising a plurality of handles for being gripped by the user facilitating manipulation of said sheet of material;

wherein said handles are integrally formed in said sheet of material by a plurality of cutouts in said sheet of material;

wherein each of said sliding members has a coating for reducing friction between said sliding members and the support surface;

wherein said coating is tetrafluoroethylene;

wherein the sheet of material has a front edge and a rear edge, the sheet of material having a pair of side edges extending between the front and rear edges,

wherein a row of a plurality of the spaced sliding members is positioned between the front and rear edges and a row of a plurality of the spaced sliding members is positioned between the side edges;

wherein each of the sliding members has a perimeter formed of approximately four segments, each of the segments of the perimeter being arcuate; and

wherein each of the sliding members has four corner junctures where adjacent ones of the arcuate segments meet.